

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. _____**

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION commemorating the 75th
Anniversary of the Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration Programs.

STEELE, HUME

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on



**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. _____**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration Programs.

Whereas, More than a century ago, hunters, anglers and trappers were among the first conservationists who realized America's natural resources were in peril and could not sustain unregulated harvest and habitat destruction;

Whereas, Hunters, anglers and trappers took it upon themselves to support laws that stopped excessive harvest of fish and wildlife, established game and fish agencies to protect fish, wildlife, and their habitat, and supported special fishing and hunting license fees to help fund the new agencies' efforts to provide for healthy natural resources for future generations;

Whereas, The Senate then and now recognizes that the primary authority to protect and manage fish and resident wildlife within their borders resides in the state fish and wildlife agencies;

Whereas, This user pay-public benefit system became known as the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program, which began 75 years ago with the passage of the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act in 1937, and then was bolstered with the passage of the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act in 1950 (later expanded by the Wallop-Breaux amendment to the Sport Fish Restoration Act 1984);



Whereas, The combined contribution of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs to state fish and wildlife agencies exceeds \$13 billion since 1939 (the first year money was distributed to the states) - more than any other single conservation effort in American history-which constitutes, collectively, the American System of Conservation Funding;

Whereas, The manufacturers of firearms, ammunition, hunting, fishing, and boating equipment have collected excise taxes on firearms, ammunition, archery equipment, manufactured fishing tackle, electric trolling motors, marine electronics and motorboat fuel, and distributed these funds to the states through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service;

Whereas, The manufacturers of firearms, ammunition, hunting, fishing, and boating equipment have supported the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs and continue to exhibit a spirit of cooperation with the state fish and wildlife agencies; and

Whereas, This cooperative partnership between industry, hunters, anglers, trappers, boaters, recreational shooters, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and state natural resource agencies has resulted in the most successful model of fish and wildlife management in the world, restoring populations from coast to coast: Therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, the House of Representatives concurring:

- 1 SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly recognizes the
- 2 75th Anniversary of America's hunters, anglers, trappers, boaters,
- 3 recreational shooters, industry, state fish and wildlife agencies, and the
- 4 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for their leading role in restoring
- 5 healthy populations of fish, wildlife and other natural resources
- 6 supported by the American System of Conservation Funding.
- 7 SECTION 2. The Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed to
- 8 transmit a copy of this Resolution to Robert Carter, Director of the
- 9 Indiana Department of Natural Resources; the Indiana Congressional
- 10 delegation; and the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation.

